

From: Paul Carroll
To: Microsoft ATR,microsoftcomments@doj.ca.gov@inetgw,...
Date: 11/20/01 3:32pm
Subject: Concerned Citizen Unhappy with MS Deal

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you today because I am very dissatisfied with the deal Microsoft is striking with the DoJ. Everything I have read indicates that while all courts have upheld the contention that Microsoft has used anti-competitive and monopolistic practices, they will only be given a slap on the wrist with a very vague bargain. Not only do I believe that the deal is detrimental to the consumer, but I also believe that the deal will end up costing the taxpayers money as they fund future attempts to make sure Microsoft obeys nebulous guidelines. I want a clear cut decision against Microsoft in this case, and am willing to suffer through the trials necessary to get it right. We are willing to fight a war against terrorism for as long as it takes to guarantee our safety, we should be willing to act similarly to guarantee our competitive freedom. It has reached the point in this country that it is practically impossible to buy a computer without buying a Microsoft product, even if we have no intention of ever using the computer with a Microsoft operating system. Would we stand still if we could not buy a car without buying a Microsoft trailer along with it? What if you could not buy ground beef without buying a Microsoft hamburger bun?

I would have been happy with the original court order splitting Microsoft, and feel that it makes sense. It was easily understandable to the general public, and clearly showed that monopolistic behavior would not be tolerated. Unfortunately, Microsoft got out of that one on a technicality - simply because the judge talked to reporters, the decision was thrown out. Higher courts have upheld the findings of the lower court, but now the penalty is paltry. I can understand (if not agree with) arguments that splitting the company was too drastic, but surely people of reason can see that the proposed deal is too lenient.

Please pursue this case with utmost vigilance. Make sure that Microsoft does not threaten freedom again.

Thank you,
Paul Carroll